

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

AID-20 IO-12 DPW-01 RSR-01 /115 W
----- 096328

P R 180230 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 322

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 6606

E.1. 11652: GDS

TAGS: VVNT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: DAILY MR SP SITREP- 17 APRIL 1973

FOLLOWING RECEIVED FROM AMCONSUL BIEN HOA BEING REPEATED

QUOTE

BIEN HOA 0077

SUBJ: DAILY MR 3 SITREP - 17 APRIL 1973

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS

1. MILITARY ACTIVITY IN MR 3 REMAINED AT A LOW LEVEL, THOUGH UP FROM YESTERDAY.(THERE WERE 15 INCIDENTS REPORTED CONSISTING OF FIVE ATTACKS BY FCEKKABF), THREE GROUND CONTACTS, SIX MINE INCIDENTS, AN ONE SA-7 MISSILE FIRING. TON LE CHAM BASE CAMP RECEIVED 191 ROUNDS OF ASSORTED MORTAR, ARTILLERY, DND ROCKET FIRE, WHICH DESTROYED A ROW OF CAMP HOUSES. NO CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED. IN HAU NGHIA PROVINCE AN UNKNOWN-SIZE HOSTILE FORCE ATTACKED ELEMENTS OF THE 83 RD ARVN RANGER BATTALION 9 KMS SOUTHWEST OF THE DUC HUE DISTRICT SEAT, RESULTS REPORTED WERE 12 NVA KILLED AND NO RANGER CASUALTIES. DOCUMENTS FOUND

ON ENEMY BODIES IDENTIFIED BEARERS AS MEMBERS OF C-19 COMPANY, 271 ST INDEPENDENT NVA REGIMENT. RF ELEMENTS WERE ATTACKED BY ESTIMATED PLATOON- SIZE FORCE 6 KMS NORTHWEST OF
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THE DUC HOA DISTRICT SEAT. RESULTS REPORTED WERE 3 NVA/ VC KILLED AND NO RF CASUALTIES. (SOURCE: MR3 G2)

2. THE TAY NINH PROVINCE CHIEF YESTERDAY PAINTED A BLEAK PICTURE OF HIS PROVINCES DURING A DISCUSSION WITH AMERICAN NEWSMAN ROBERT NOVAK AND THE ITNGENPX SUGGESTION THAT THE BUILD- UP OF COMMUNIST FORCES AND WYMOR IN THE NORTHERN PART (WAR ZONE " C") OF THAT PROVINCE

WAS IN PREPARATION FOR AN ATTACK ON TAY NINH CITY. HE OFFERED AS EVIDENCE AN INTELLIGENCE REPORT WHICH, INTER ALIA, INDICATED THAT THE COMMUNISTS HAD ORGANIZED TWO NEW IEGIMENTS IN WAR ZONE " C" WITH 4-5 THOUSAND RELEASED PRISONERS OF WAR. WHEN PRESSED FOR A DATE, HE OPINED THAT IT MAY BE SOON OR AS LATE AS 6-9 MONTHS FROM NOW. HE WAS POSITIVE, HOWEVER, THAT AN ATTACK WOULD TAKE PLACE SINCE THE COMMUNISTS ARE WEAK POLITICALLY, AND MUST NECESSARILY DEPEND UPON MILITARYMUSCLE IF THEY HOPE TO ACHIEVE THEIR OBJECTIVES. THE PROVINCE CHEIF SAID THAT HE IS KEEPING BOOK ON COMMUNIST MOVES SO THAT WHEN THEY ELECT TO LAUNCH THE ATTACK, HE WILL BE ABLE TO PINPOINT EXACT LOCATIONS FOR THE B-52 S THE AMERICANS WILL HAVE TO SEND IN TO PRESERVE THE TERMS OF THE CEASE- FIRE ACCORD.

3. COMMUNIST PROPAGANDISTS IN LONG AN PROVINCE HAVE REVEALED A NEW WEAPON IN THEIR PROPAGANDA ARSENAL THAT THEY HOPE WILL ENCOURAGE THE PEOPLE TO CHOOSE THEIR SIDE IN THE ONGOING STRUGGLE FOR THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF THE VIETNAMESE VILLAGERS. UNSIGNED LETTERS CHARGING KEY PROVINCE, DISTRICT, AND VILLAGE OFFICIALS WITH CORRUPTION AND MORAL TURPITUDE ARE WIDELY DISSEMINATEDHON THE CITIES AND COUNTRYSIDE TO DRIVE A WEDGE BETWEEN THE GRVN AND THE PEOPLE. GRVN OFFICIALS IN THE PROVINCE HAVE TAKEN STEPS TO COUNTER WHAT THEY CONSIDER IS AN EFFECTIVE WEAPON. SMALL TEAMS OF PEOPLE LOYAL TO THE GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED TO WORK THE VILLAGES TO UNMASK THE INTENTIONS OF THE COMMUNISTS. WALKINSHAW UNQUOTE BUNKER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON06606
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730452/aaaaixmh.tel
Line Count: 103
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EAP
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21-Aug-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <28-Nov-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> wfs 980202
Subject: DAILY MR SP SITREP- 17 APRIL 1973 FOLLOWING RECEIVED FROM AMCONSUL BIEN HOA BEING REPEATED QUOTE BIEN HOA 0077 SUBJ: DAILY MR 3 SITREP - 17 APRIL 19 73 E. O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS
TAGS: MILI, PINS, VVNT, VS, n/a
To: EA
JEC PARIS
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005